



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee is an active voice in advocating that all students receive superior educational services enabling each student to achieve optimum success throughout the school years and into the world of adulthood.

May 16, 2013

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

RI Parent Information Network
1210 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, RI 02920

Meeting Minutes

Present: Lori Barden, Wilfred Beaudoin, Ann Brockmann, Susan Donovan, Allyson Dupont, Rosemary Gomes, Patti Hien, Laura Laviano, JoAnn Nannig, Cynthia Notarianni, Pamela O'Brien, Mary Pendergast,

Absent: Kate Barnas*, Princess Sirleaf Bomba*, Eileen Botelho*, Cris Brodeur*, Amy Canario*, Jennifer Connolly*, Joanne Eichinger*, Gillian Elliot Pearis*, Deborah Garneau*, Craig Levis*, Robin Pacheco*, Louise Tillinghast, Robert Wall*

RIDE/RITAP Attendees: Elizabeth Pinto, David Sienko

** Indicates that prior notice was given regarding absence*

Call to Order, Welcome, Agenda Review: The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm. Susan welcomed everyone and reviewed some brief announcements.

Announcements:

- Dare To Dream, a student-driven conference to be held at URI on May 22, is up to 524 students attending. They are still looking for volunteers for the day. You can still register at RITAP.
- RIPIN has been given a small foundation grant to be used for a bilingual mentor to work in Providence at the schools to help parents navigate the IEP process. It is still to be determined which school they will be placed.

New Business:

Membership Committee:

- Members of the committee could not attend tonight, but Sue announced that RISEAC members Rosemary Gomes, Deb Garneau and Pam O'Brien have agreed to take over the responsibilities of the sub-committee for next year.

Telephone (401)222-4600 **Fax** (401)222-6178 **TTY** (800)745-5555 **Voice** (800)745-6575 **Website:** www.ride.ri.gov

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- Sue gave an update on the recruitment efforts for new membership on RISEAC. There have been 10 applications received and one interview completed. June 3rd there will be more interviews. Hopefully, next meeting (close of year dinner), we will have nominations to be forward to the membership. Voting on those new members will need to be done most likely in October 2013.
- In addition, Ann Brockmann's term as recording secretary is up this year, so there is an open spot for that position. Please notify Membership Committee or Sue Donovan if you are interested. Ann has agreed to stay on if no one comes forward.

Guest Speaker: Barrie Grossi from RITAP at RIDE in the OSCAS office speaking on two different subjects:

1. **The Rhode Island Multi-tiered System of Support (RI MTSS)** – There is a Power Point presentation available to be reviewed for those not present. Some of the highlights of Barrie's presentation are listed below:
 - This is the Special Education version of Race to the Top
 - It was a competitive grant from OSEP
 - The goal is to bring the RTI (Response to Intervention) and the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) together.
 - The goal is to reach 60 schools over 5 years
 - Cohort Professional Development model with 9-15 schools enrolled for Year 1
 - There will be school staff development with a coach per district.
 - RISEAC will be involved in an Advisory Board
 - District Leadership Implementation Team (DLIT) and School Leadership Implementation Team (SLIT)
 - The MTSS will be tied into the State Accountability System (for those schools on transforming, focus and priority warning)
 - It will play into Indicator 17 of the SPP (State Performance Plan) for how special education is connected to general education work
2. **The Rhode Island Educator Evaluation Special Educator SLO(Student Learning Objective) and SOO (Student Outcome Objective)**
 - This came out of a request from the Office of Educator Quality
 - Patti Hien was a RISEAC member on the workgroup and shared her observations
 - There was a statewide survey completed mid-year and end-of-year, available at Edeval@ride.ri.gov.
 - There were focus group meetings
 - Two national projects, The New Teacher Project and Center for Assessment, were involved
 - An SLO audit was completed
 - A special education workgroup was convened
 - Used the Professional Practice and Professional Foundation Rubric, to which the workgroup added more examples of what it would look like in a special education classroom
 - There will be a Guidebook addendum, not a checklist, on how to use the rubric flexibly
 - For Support Professional, there is an SOO more concerned about "access to learning"
 - Some next steps include:
 - Guidebook Addenda

- Additional SLO and SOO samples
- Evaluators will have 1.5 days of summer training and an additional 4 hours online module training

Director's Report: David Sienko

1. **Hearing Officers** - OSCAS is pleased to announce that three new special education Due Process Hearing Officers have been appointed. This expands our cadre of hearing officers available in the future to hear state due process complaints. The hearing officers were selected based on a rigorous review process. All three hearing officers have received training and initial intensive start-up training with Art Cernosia. They will participate in follow-up training and mentoring and are expected to be added to the Hearing Officer list this fall. The appointees include: Jason Knight, Esq. of Providence, Teresa M. Rusbino, Esq. of Cranston, and Steven A. Colantuono, Esq. of Warwick. We are very excited about our new additions as we complete phase four of our OSCAS Dispute Resolution System improvement plan.
2. **RIDE posts Fiscal Year 2014 federal-fund allocations** - As sequestration has loomed over us, I know that you have been eager to receive detailed information about the allocation of federal funds. The preliminary allocations for the federal Title Programs (Title I, Title II, Title III, IDEA Part B, and IDEA Preschool) on the our website, at: <http://ridegms.blob.core.windows.net/documentlibrary/A6856981-5D06-4284-AC15-E99D24210E49.xls>
The effects of sequestration will be challenging for all of us this year. Contact David Sienko, Director of Student, Community, and Academic Supports, at 222-8333 or David.Sienko@ride.ri.gov, for further assistance.
3. **OSERS Published Revision to IDEA B Parental Consent to Access Public Funds Regulations** - Revised IDEA Part B Final Regulations related to parental consent to access public benefits or insurance (e.g., Medicaid) become effective on March 18, 2013, with a full implementation date of July 1, 2013. These regulations relate to the parental consent required by LEAs prior to accessing a child's/family's public benefits, e.g. Medicaid. The previous regulations required that LEAs receive consent *each time* public benefits are accessed. The revision requires LEAs to obtain a one-time written (informed) consent and to provide prior written notification to the child's parents *before* accessing the child's or the parent's public benefits or insurance for the first time. LEAs are required to provide annual notification to parents as well.
RIDE/RITAP has convened a workgroup to update the current Parental Consent Brochure and the Model Medicaid Consent Form. For more information about the revised regulations, click on this link which provides access to a copy of the revised regulations, a one page summary of what the changes mean and a FAQ to explain the revisions: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/reg/idea/part-b/part-b-parental-consent.html>
4. **Race to the Top Summary of Work** - Year four Race to the Top work includes the following plans and projects: Transitioning to the Common Core State Standards, developing and aligning curriculum in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, implementing educator-evaluation models, supporting beginning-teacher induction, using the new interim assessments, engaging in professional development regarding formative assessment and data use, exploring the newly designed instructional-management system; and transforming our lowest-achieving schools.

5. **Instructional Management System to drop Pinnacle component** -Global Scholar the contractor for some of the tools on the Instructional Management System (IMS), has informed RIDE that it will no longer include the Pinnacle component of its product line. The Pinnacle component hosts the curriculum and reporting functions within the IMS. This development will not impact the work we are doing in the upcoming school year. Please contact Phyllis Lynch, Director of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum, at phyllis.lynch@ride.ri.gov, if you have questions about this matter.
6. **OSCAS Responding to OSEP SPP/APR Analysis** – RIDE has received the OSEP SPP/APR Response Table and is preparing the response submission due to OSEP on Friday May 17, 2013. The majority of the items identified in need of clarification are editorial or links that were changed with the launch of the new RIDE web site. The response will be posted to the RIDE web site as soon as it is completed and sent to OSEP. We are pleased that the findings of OSEP appear minor and well within our capacity to address.
7. **RI Special Education Regulations to Change for Medicaid Consent** –RIDE will be proposing changes to the RI Special Education Regulations based on the US Ed-OSERS announced revision to parental consent regulations for accessing public funds, (e.g. Medicaid), authorized by IDEA 2006 34 CFR §300.154 (d). In addition to making the changes necessary to include the shift to annual parental consent, RIDE will include corrections to several inconsistencies, omissions and oversights in the regulations. All of the changes to be made are technical in nature and do not affect or create changes in rights, additional financial burdens or new programs or requirements. RIDE will be limiting the changes to technical corrections in addition to adding the new form of consent for accessing public funds requirement. RISEAC will be informed of the technical revisions as soon as they become available.

Approval of Minutes for April 25, 2013 – There is not a quorum present so minutes will need to be held for approval until next meeting.

Old Business:

Workgroups Meet to review action plans and document status – Work groups met and reviewed their action plans to note accomplishments and any items “To Do” for next year. An electronic version will be collated for review by the RISEAC members. Some of the workgroups shared out with their status reports.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A motion was initiated by Lori and seconded by Pam to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Recording Secretary: Ann L. Brockmann

RISEAC website: www.riseac.org